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## MODERN NOVEL HERO IMMORAL SAYS CROOKS

COLLEGE HEAD SAYS THEY  
GIVE A FALSE IMPRESSION  
OF LIFE TO THE YOUNG.

### Choose Books That Interpret Honestly

The popular novel was placed on trial and found wanting by Dr. H. M. Crooks, president of Alma college, in an address before 150 members and guests of the West Side Teachers' Club at the First M. E. church in Saginaw last Wednesday evening. Dr. Crooks' subject was "Literature and Morality."

The supernatural hero, who resists great temptation, wins the princess and is showered with great riches—which President Crooks declared is symbolical of the substance of most fiction—is a plot or excuse for a plot that is immoral in its effect, according to the speaker. "Such books lead youngsters to think that life is organized that way and then when these things don't happen in real life, the youth thinks that God isn't on the job," the speaker said.

"First of all books should be true to life. Some men write books by picking a unique or peculiar character and calling him one of us. They write about him as though he were a universal character, and yet he is unusual."

"The next question is, 'On which side—Virtue or Vice—am I left when I get through reading the book?' "Choose books that interpret life fairly, wholly and honestly—that help you to appreciate life and the principles that underlie life. It takes more than a seventh rate writer in a fourth rate monthly magazine to see the end or purpose of life."

Dr. Crooks condemned the book that depends upon an accident to reform the hero. "The man who is hit on the head with a tile and thereafter changes the course of his life isn't real. Tragedy is not an accident, but the result of one's sins."

"Titles of books frequently irritate," he continued. He gave examples of titles that are misfits or else greatly misleading. The practice of "overloading the hero," making the other characters of the book seem smaller so the hero will shine in greater glory, was characterized by the speaker as a common fault of several writers.

Proceeding Dr. Crooks' address, the teachers were told by Miss Mary McBratnie about the state convention at Lansing of Teachers' Clubs, which Miss McBratnie attended as delegate from the club.

### Artists Concert Was a Big Success

The local artists' concert held under the auspices of the Alma Art Club at the Presbyterian Church, Friday evening, was one of the best functions of a musical nature that has been rendered by Alma talent in a number of years, and in addition to furnishing entertainment of a high order accomplished results that were far better than had been anticipated.

The Alma Art Club, which was the moving spirit behind the concert desired to be of service to the poor of the community and in casting about for some means of securing funds to be used by the Alma Welfare Association in its work here, decided upon the concert. The proceeds amounting to \$190.00 were turned over to this organization to be used in its work this winter.

Over a score artists assisted in the concert, in musical selections or in readings, furnished an evening's entertainment that would be extremely hard to duplicate in any other way.

### Mrs. Bonbright to Give Recital Here

Mrs. C. H. Bonbright of Flint will appear at Alma College, Thursday evening, December 7, in a complimentary recital to the student of the college and their friends.

Mrs. Bonbright has had an extensive musical education and has taught considerably in conservatories. She has delighted Flint musical circles on numerous occasions, and her coming visit to the college is being awaited with interest by the students, and especially those from the city of Flint, who recently formed a Flint Club at the institution. Miss Baker, a well known soloist of Flint, will appear here with Mrs. Bonbright.

Mrs. Bonbright is the wife of C. H. Bonbright, former manager of the Imperial Wheel Company of Flint, and one of the trustees of Alma College.

### Will Read "Servant in the House" Here

On Friday evening at 8 o'clock in the Presbyterian Church one of the most interesting entertainments of the year will be given under the auspices of the Presbyterian Brotherhood. Prof. Ray Immel of the Department of Public Speaking of the University of Michigan will give "The Servant in the House" as a reading. Prof. Immel is well known throughout the state, not only because of his readings and addresses, but also because he has been the man who arranged the schedule for the inter High School debates such as Alma H. S. teams regularly participate in.

In as much as Prof. Immel's appearance is by arrangement with the University extension department no charge is made to the Brotherhood for his services and no charges will be made to the public.

Those who heard Prof. Truethood, also of the U. of M., who was here last year and gave "Ingomar the Barbarian" will remember the pleasure and inspiration they had then and will want to avail themselves of the present treat. Everyone is invited.

## LICENSES GOING ON SALE FRIDAY

SHARRAR & WATSON OF THIS  
CITY WILL HAVE 1923 PLATES  
AVAILABLE THEN.

Automobile owners, and users of trucks and motorcycles will be able to secure their 1923 automobile license plates beginning on Friday, December 1, at which time they will go on sale at the branch office established by the Secretary of State with Sharrar & Watson of Alma, who have charge of the sale of the licenses in Gratiot County.

Although the license plates, on which green is the predominating color this year, go on sale for the first time Friday, automobile users are warned that they are not to be used until January 1.

There have been some important changes in the license regulations since last year. From now on it will not be so easy to purchase plates as more routine must be gone through. One point is forcibly brought to the attention of motorists by Charles J. DeLand, secretary of state. It is to the effect that every person buying a 1923 license must show his or her certificate of title for the car on which the license is issued.

The 1921 legislature passed what is known as the Condon certificate of title law, a measure designed to cut off automobile thefts in the state of Michigan. This law became effective on July 1, 1922. According to its terms no transaction involving the sale or purchase of a motor car in Michigan can be made unless a title has first been issued for the car, and this must then be transferred to the purchaser, through the state department.

Secretary DeLand in considering a method of handling the 1923 licenses so as to prevent fraud, decided that all owners must show their certificates of title when applying for plates. The clerk issuing the license will then be required to write in the title number on the license application blank as a clerk to show the title is in possession of the rightful owner.

The secretary of state concluded after thorough consideration of the problem that showing the title was the only way of preventing the issuing of plates for stolen cars. This will probably prove an inconvenience to some who have mislaid their titles, but the state department will adhere strictly to the rule. Those who do not comply with it will be unable to purchase license plates.

Those motor car owners who wish to avoid the unpleasant rush which starts each year on the day following Christmas should purchase their license some time between the opening of the sale on December 1, and December 24.

### Bishop Williams to Be Here on Sunday

Bishop Williams of the Episcopal church, one of the best known speakers of the state, will visit the Episcopal churches of both St. Louis and Alma on Sunday.

Sunday morning Bishop Williams will speak at the Episcopal church in Alma, where it is expected that a crowded church will hear this eloquent platform speaker, and in the evening he will address the members of the Episcopal church of St. Louis at the regular evening service.

The Gift Shop open December 20 and 21. Two days only. Owned and operated by The Ladies of the Christian church in building formerly occupied by the Durkee Music House.—advertisement 80-4w

## COUNTRY IS TO OBSERVE BETTER EDUCATION WEEK

DECEMBER 3 TO 9 SET ASIDE BY  
THE GOVERNMENT FOR THIS  
PURPOSE.

### Ask Stress on Certain Topics

The federal government has appointed the week of December 3 to 9 as American Education Week. The observance of this custom was instituted two years ago by Dr. P. P. Claxton, who at that time was commissioner of education. It is the plan now to hold each year an observance of Education week and through clubs, church, newspapers, magazines and every other means, emphasize the work of education in the United States.

It seemed wise, in order that the campaign might be concentrated upon phases of education which are of outstanding significance to designate certain days on which topics should be stressed. These days are as follows:

For God and Country, Sunday, Dec. 3, 1922; 1. Education in the home; 2. Education in the school; 3. Education in the church. Slogan—"A Godly Nation Cannot Fail."

Ministers of all denominations are urged to preach a sermon on education, either morning or evening. All communities are urged to hold mass meetings. Requests for speakers should be made to the American Legion posts throughout the country for meetings during this week.

American Citizenship Day—Monday, Dec. 4, 1922; 1. Children today, citizens tomorrow; 2. Naturalization for all men and women; 3. Help the immigrants to become Americans; 4. The duties of citizenship. Slogans—"American All by 1927;" "Visit the Schools Today;" "Patriotism is the Basis of a Happy Nation."

Patriotism Day—Tuesday, Dec. 5—1. The flag—the emblem of freedom; 2. Music as a nation builder; 3. Universal use of the English language in the United States; 4. The citizens' duty to vote. Slogans—"Visit the Schools Today;" "Patriotism is the Basis of a Happy Nation."

School and Teacher Day—Wednesday, Dec. 6; 1. The necessity of schools; 2. The teacher as a nation builder; 3. The schools' influence on the coming generation; 4. America as an educated nation. Slogans—"Visit the Schools Today;" "Better trained and better paid teachers, more adequate buildings."

Illiteracy Day—Thursday, Dec. 7; 1. Illiteracy as a blot on our nation; 2. No illiteracy in 1927; 3. A citizen's duty toward the uneducated; 4. No immigration until illiteracy among native and foreign born is removed. Slogans—"Let every citizen adopt and teach an illiterate to read and write;" "Visit the Schools Today."

Equality of Opportunity—Friday, Dec. 8; 1. Equality of opportunity in education for every American boy and girl; 2. Rural schools—city schools; 3. High schools—colleges; 4. American institutions. Slogans—"Visit the Schools Today;" "Let All Have an Equal Opportunity for Education;" "A Square Deal for the Country Boy and Girl."

### Intelligence Test at Alma College

Intelligence test held with the Freshman class at Alma College, which is known as the Range of Information Test, and is to be used annually with the Freshmen at the College, has proven very interesting this year.

Sixty young men took the test and of this number thirteen were graded with A, Gilbert Davis of St. Louis being high among the men. Of the thirteen graded A, three were Alma young men. The A grade was given on a score of 140 or more points out of a possible 185.

The high score was taken by Miss Dorothy Bradley of Alma, one of the forty Freshmen girls who took the test, with a high score of 156. Six of the forty girls were graded A.

This is a reverse of the usual condition, where the girls usually score stronger than the men. In this case 13 boys were graded A out of 60 and only 6 girls out of 40 secured the A grade.

An excuse is only a poor substitute for an apology.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
This publication went to press this week some hours earlier than usual so that the men of the office might enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, and as a result considerable correspondence, which came late was forced to be left out for the present week.

### MAYOR COUZENS MADE SENATOR BY GROESBECK

Mayor James Couzens of Detroit was appointed as the United States Senator from Michigan today, to succeed Truman H. Newberry, resigned, the appointment having been made by Governor Groesbeck early today.

The appointment of Mayor Couzens to the senatorship had been freely predicted for the past several days by Republican leaders of the state.

Through his appointment he will become Michigan's senior senator March 3, when Woodbridge N. Ferris becomes senator. He will also take precedent in the senate over the newly elected U. S. senators, which is a matter of importance to Michigan at this time with many new senators going to Washington in March.

### Well Known Resident Died Here on Monday

Paris Robinson, for the past eleven years a well known and highly respected resident of this city, and a former merchant in Champaign, Illinois, died soon after 7:00 a. m. Monday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lyle McKenzie, Center street, after an illness of some weeks. He was 79 years of age.

Mr. Robinson was a member of the Masonic lodge and was a Knight Templar, and also a member of other organizations.

The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 at the home of his daughter on Center street, and that evening the body was taken to his old home in Champaign, Illinois, for burial.

## REGARD NARROW MARGIN AS RULE

"OFF YEAR" ELECTIONS HELD  
TO SHOW REVERSAL FROM  
PRESIDENTIAL YEARS.

The Republican majority in the present House is 166. The Republican majority in the next House will be 15.

This recalls a similar reversal under the Wilson administration. The 1912 elections which made Mr. Wilson a President by a minority vote of the country gave to the Democrats a majority in the House of 163. In 1914, although the opposition to the Democratic party was still badly divided the Democratic majority was reduced to 29.

Small majorities are the rule in the House and Senate. The ebb and flow of the political tide naturally affects the Senate less, because the six-year tenure of office enables its members to bridge over the temporary upheaval that so often completely changes the political complexion of the lower house.

An example of that is afforded by the period of years covering both administrations of Cleveland and the administration of Harrison. During this period the House swung from one party to the other, but the Senate remained Republican, although its Republican majority was cut to a narrow margin of two for the terms beginning 1887 and 1889.

Surprising as it may seem, the United States Senate was Republican every term from the Civil War to the term which began in 1915, with the exception of the one term which began in 1893. In that year the Senate stood 44 Democrats, 58 Republicans and 3 independent. The Democratic Senate of that term was swept into power with the second election of Cleveland in 1892. The Republican landslide in 1894, however, restored a Republican majority, the Senate which convened March 4, 1895 standing 42 Republicans to 39 Democrats.

The present Republican majority of 24 is larger than ever in the history of the Senate with the exception of five terms beginning 1901 and ending 1911. The Senate which convened in 1901, elected at the time McKinley was elected the second time, had a Republican majority of 27 with three independent. The next two Senates had Republican majorities of 26. The largest Republican majority ever obtained in the Senate was 30 under the Roosevelt administration.

The barometer of political majorities in the House is very interesting. It refutes the common belief that majorities as a rule are very large. The year Garfield was elected the Republicans carried the House by 22. The off-year following his election they lost the House the Democrats carrying it by a majority of 81. Cleveland's election in 1894 gave the Democrats a majority of 44 in the House. The off-year following reduced that majority to 17.

Benjamin Harrison defeated Cleveland in the campaign of 1888, one of the most closely contested campaigns (Continued on page two)

## TWO YOUNG MEN START LEATHER COMPANY HERE

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LEATHER  
COMPANY WILL BE NAME OF  
ALMA'S NEW INDUSTRY.

### Will Locate in the Carburetor Plant

Announcement has been made here of the formation of the Central Michigan Leather Company, which is to have its headquarters in this city, and which will give to Alma another industry of promise.

It is the intention of the new company to manufacture the well known Spanish upholstering leather, which is used extensively for furniture and automobile work, etc. There is a wide field for such leather and the product of the company is expected to find a ready market as soon as manufacturing can be put under way.

G. L. Barnhart of Grand Rapids and Lyle Barnhart, a teacher in Alma High School, will be the principal owners of the Central Michigan Leather Company, which has secured quarters in the carburetor plant in the northwestern part of the city. G. L. Barnhart, who comes here from Grand Rapids, has had considerable experience in the manufacture of this brand of leather, and he will have charge of the manufacturing end of the business. Lyle Barnhart will have charge of the administrative end of the concern. For the present he expects to retain his connection with the local schools.

The company is expecting that its machinery will be here within the next week or ten days and that in less than three weeks operations will be under way.

### Vandals Visited Alma on Thursday

On Thursday evening of last week some irresponsible individuals visited this city and made their way to Alma College where some acts of vandalism were committed, painting being spread on four of the brick buildings of the College and also on the athletic gate at Davis field.

On two of the buildings the paint was fairly easily removed, but this condition did not obtain on the others because of the rough finish of the brick. The painting consisted of signs relative to the approaching Mt. Pleasant Normal-Alma College football game.

President Crooks of Alma College is of the opinion that the painting was the work of irresponsible individuals and did not represent the sentiment of the students at the Normal. He said that no protest had been made to the Normal authorities in regard to the matter, but that they had been given word of the action, because of reports that the vandals intended to return on Friday night.

These reports prompted the College to have the campus patrolled that evening, but the vandals did not reappear. Numerous citizens of Alma have expressed themselves rather forcibly in regard to the act of vandalism last Thursday evening, and expressed the hope that such work by irresponsible individuals would cease, and not be a means perhaps of severing athletic relations between the two institutions of central Michigan, which have always endeavored to maintain cleanliness in their meetings in athletic events, regardless of rivalries.

### Newaygo Schedules Dairy-Alfalfa Work

The series of county Dairy and Alfalfa campaigns being but on in the state this year by the Michigan Agricultural College will reach Newaygo county next, according to announcement made here this week. The teams of specialists in charge of the campaign work will finish in Westhenaw county early in December, it is understood, swinging up then to Newaygo on December 12 for four days of intensive drive.

Unusually heavy attendance has marked the meeting of the Dairy-Alfalfa campaigns in Kent and Washtenaw counties during the past month, farmers showing keen interest in the value of alfalfa as a leguminous hay crop and as soil improver, as well as in the benefits of improved dairy cattle.

The itinerary for the Newaygo campaign calls for local meetings around Brunswick on Dec. 12, Grant on the 13, and Fremont on the 14. On Dec. 15 the teams will step over into Muskegon county for meetings near Ravenna.

### Plan to Check Pea Louse Crop Damage

Effective control measures for the Pea Louse, insect pest which caused heavy losses in Michigan's pea crop this year, were the aim of a conference of state entomologists and canners held recently in Chicago.

With the canning pea industry valued at more than thirteen million dollars in the United States, and at four hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars in Michigan alone, losses by the pest have assumed serious importance in the state's agricultural program.

"The Pea Louse causes losses of from a small percentage to almost total loss in the crop," says Prof. R. H. Pettit, M. A. C. entomologist who attended the Chicago meeting, "and its damage in Michigan ran to large proportions this year."

"There is no control measure now in which the expense is not prohibitive, but our plans are to find a practicable method. A tentative plan has already been mapped out which will include co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in insuring safe production of sufficient supplies of canning peas."

## RENDERS COUNTRY A GREAT SERVICE

JOIN THE RED CROSS TODAY  
BEFORE THE ANNUAL ROLL  
CALL COMES TO AN END.

Seventy-two disasters, in which 674 persons were reported killed and 521 injured, called for emergency relief measures and the expenditure of \$1,441,486 by the American Red Cross during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1922, according to a statement made public by its officers based upon the forthcoming annual report of the Red Cross. These disasters caused property damage estimated at more than \$30,000,000, and rendered more than 145,000 persons homeless or otherwise needing assistance. In one section alone, the Louisiana-Mississippi border, the Red Cross for weeks fed over 35,000 flood refugees daily.

The greatest toll of life was taken by hurricane and tornado, while the overflowing of rivers, the breaking of dams and torrential rain storms drove the greatest number of people from their homes. Fire played an important part in the chain of disasters which made insistent demands for Red Cross relief workers.

The year's disasters reported, for which the estimates of killed and injured are considered low because in only about one-third of the instances were dead and injured mentioned, included 26 floods, 19 tornadoes or storms, 15 fires, four epidemics, two theatre collapses, two shipwrecks (one an airship), a bridge collapse, mine explosion, railway collision and a drought.

In the states of the middle west during the year, the Red Cross has given disaster relief in the Illinois flood, after tornadoes in Wisconsin and South Dakota in forest fires of Minnesota and in drought in Montana.

The year has seen further perfection of disaster relief administrative measures in every field, and that the work may be carried on to still greater accomplishments the American Red Cross is appealing for a worldwide renewal of membership during the annual Roll Call which closes on Thanksgiving Day. In Chapters throughout the country the equipment and trained relief workers to cope with local disasters is always ready, and the system of communication makes it possible to consolidate relief measures without loss of time for use in great emergencies which might occur in any part of the United States.

Show your Thankfulness by joining today before the drive comes to a close. Your local chairman will be glad to accept your membership today.

### Michigan TB. Death Rate Ranks Sixth

The state of Michigan can congratulate itself on the fact that it ranks sixth in the list of eleven registration states having the lowest tuberculosis death rate in the country. Thirty-four states are registered and only eleven of these have a rate of less than 100 deaths per 100,000 population.

According to statistics recently compiled by the National Tuberculosis Association, Utah, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana and Vermont show the lowest tuberculosis death rates. Michigan comes sixth in the list. The death rate for that state for 1921 is 71.6 per 100,000; representing a decrease of 27.9 per cent since 1908, the year in which the Michigan Tuberculosis Association was organized.

The wise man seeks further knowledge. The fool is content to impart it.

## SALE OF XMAS SEALS STARTED BY COMMITTEE

CAMPAIGN FOR TB. SEALS BE-  
ING PUT UNDER WAY IN  
ENTIRE COUNTY TODAY.

### Large Sale Looked For in This County

No organization is more clearly deserving of the support of every citizen than the Gratiot County Good Health Society. This society is affiliated with the Michigan Tuberculosis Association, and is now engaged in the sale of Christmas Seals in order to raise necessary funds to carry on the work of the association during 1923.

The state association is a part of the national organization, and has for its objects:

1. Dissemination of knowledge concerning the causes, treatment and prevention of tuberculosis.
2. Investigation of the prevalence of tuberculosis in Michigan and the collecting of useful information.
3. Co-operation with the public authorities, state and local board of health, the National Tuberculosis Association, medical societies and other organizations in approved measures adopted for the prevention of the disease.
4. The promotion of the organization and work of local societies in all parts of Michigan.
5. Securing adequate provision for consumptives by encouraging the establishment of sanatoria, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, open air schools and preventive work among children and adults.
6. Securing the proper legislation to promote the relief and prevention of tuberculosis.

It is obvious that the carrying out of this program calls for the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, yet the sole means of financing the work is through the sale of Christmas Seals. Once a year, the public is asked to contribute to the fund of the association, and to a very large extent, its activities are limited or extended in proportion to the amount of money available.

Tuberculosis may be prevented by the exercise of the proper measures. It may be cured by the application of proper treatment. The crusade against the white plague is one in which we all have a deep, personal interest. Any organization which centers its activities on stamping out a disease so insidious and deadly merits generous support.

The Yuletide season is a time for giving, during which one should not overlook the opportunity of making a thrice blessed gift to humanity through the purchase of Christmas Seals.

Beginning on Thanksgiving Day, the local committee will begin its solicitation among the business men of the city, and will continue their campaign until the holiday season is over. The drive for the sale of the tuberculosis seals will be waged vigorously in every section of the county.

The committee in charge of seal sales in Alma is composed of Mrs. Joseph Winslow, chairman; Mrs. H. M. Glass, Mrs. Frank Hanley and Mrs. Ben McCulough. Dr. Graham will solicit the medical profession throughout the county, and Mr. Ross Mitchell will promote the sale of seals at Alma College. The general chairman of the county is Mrs. V. H. Shepard.

### McKye Appears in Alma, December 6

Percy McKye, well known dramatist and critic, is to appear at the Presbyterian church on Wednesday evening, December 6, being brought to this city through the co-operation of the Women's Club, the Art Club, the Civic Improvement League, Alma College and the preachers of the city.

Space in the church for that evening will be reserved for the members of the organizations which are co-operating in bringing Mr. McKye to this city, and they are anticipating his visit to Alma with considerable pleasure.

**DIED SUDDENLY FRIDAY**  
Mrs. Caroline Ludwick, aged 67 years, the wife of G. W. Ludwick, a prominent farmer of Seville township, died very suddenly at her home on Friday, November 24. She had been a resident of that township for upwards of twenty years.

The funeral services were held at the late home on Monday afternoon and interment was made in French Cemetery in Seville township.

I just know I'm going to win that Hope Chest. Oh Min! White Shrine Bazaar, Dec. 8 to 9.—advertisement